

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a Foreign Agent, a method of registering a mobile device with a Home Agent in an asymmetric link environment, the method comprising:

5 associating each of one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent with a different care-of address;

sending an agent advertisement including the care-of address for the one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent via one or more uplinks;

receiving a registration request forwarded via a downlink router, the registration request identifying a care-of address associated with one of the one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent;

ascertaining one of the interfaces identified by the care-of address, thereby identifying the interface to which the mobile device has roamed;

forwarding the registration request to the Home Agent;

receiving a registration reply from the Home Agent; and

forwarding the registration reply to the mobile device via the ascertained interface.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile device is a mobile router. 2

20 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile device is a mobile node.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the downlink router is a Foreign Agent.

25 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the asymmetric link environment includes one or more satellites.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the registration request further includes an extension including a source MAC address of the mobile device.

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7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the registration reply includes a destination MAC address that is the source MAC address of the mobile device.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the registration request includes a destination IP address field having a value of the care-of address from the agent advertisement.

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9. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
entering the registration request in a pending registration request list; and
updating the pending registration request list when the registration reply is received from the Home Agent.

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10. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
marking the registration request as having been received on the interface advertising the care-of address.

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11. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein marking the registration request as having been received on the interface advertising the care-of address comprises:
updating a pending registration request list to indicate that the registration request has been received on the interface advertising the care-of address.

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12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the registration reply includes a destination MAC address that is a broadcast address.

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13. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the registration reply includes a

destination MAC address that is a multicast address.

- 5 14. In a downlink router, a method of forwarding a Mobile IP registration request in an asymmetric link environment, the method comprising:

receiving a registration request composed and sent by a mobile device, the registration request identifying a care-of address associated with one of one or more interfaces of a Foreign Agent;

10 forwarding the registration request to the Foreign Agent, thereby enabling the Foreign Agent to process the registration request and forward a registration reply to the mobile device via the interface.

- 15 15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the mobile device is a mobile router.

16. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the mobile device is a mobile node.

17. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the registration request includes a time to live field having a value that is greater than one.

- 20 18. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the downlink router is a Foreign Agent.

- 25 19. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the asymmetric link environment includes one or more satellites.

20. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the registration request further includes an extension including a source MAC address of the mobile device.

- 30 21. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the registration request includes a destination IP address field having a value of the care-of address.

22. A Foreign Agent that supports Mobile IP, the Foreign Agent being capable of registering a mobile device with a Home Agent in an asymmetric link environment, the Foreign Agent comprising:

- a processor; and
- a memory, at least one of the processor and the memory being adapted for:
 - associating each of one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent with a different care-of address;
 - sending an agent advertisement including the care-of address for the one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent via one or more uplinks;
 - receiving a registration request forwarded via a downlink router, the registration request identifying a care-of address associated with one of the one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent;
 - ascertaining one of the interfaces identified by the care-of address, thereby identifying the interface to which the mobile device has roamed;
 - forwarding the registration request to the Home Agent;
 - receiving a registration reply from the Home Agent; and
 - forwarding the registration reply to the mobile device via the ascertained interface.

20 23. A computer-readable medium, the computer-readable medium being adapted for enabling a Foreign Agent that supports Mobile IP to register a mobile device with a Home Agent in an asymmetric link environment, comprising:

- instructions for associating each of one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent with a different care-of address;
- instructions for sending an agent advertisement including the care-of address for the one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent via one or more uplinks;
- instructions for receiving a registration request forwarded via a downlink router, the registration request identifying a care-of address associated with one of the one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent;
- instructions for ascertaining one of the interfaces identified by the care-of address, thereby identifying the interface to which the mobile device has roamed;
- instructions for forwarding the registration request to the Home Agent;

instructions for receiving a registration reply from the Home Agent; and
instructions for forwarding the registration reply to the mobile device via the
ascertained interface.

5 24. A Foreign Agent that supports Mobile IP, the Foreign Agent being capable of
registering a mobile device with a Home Agent in an asymmetric link environment, the
Foreign Agent comprising:

means for associating each of one or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent with a
different care-of address;

10 means for sending an agent advertisement including the care-of address for the one
or more interfaces of the Foreign Agent via one or more uplinks;

means for receiving a registration request forwarded via a downlink router, the
registration request identifying a care-of address associated with one of the one or more
interfaces of the Foreign Agent;

means for ascertaining one of the interfaces identified by the care-of address,
thereby identifying the interface to which the mobile device has roamed;

means for forwarding the registration request to the Home Agent;

means for receiving a registration reply from the Home Agent; and

means for forwarding the registration reply to the mobile device via the ascertained
interface.

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